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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Romantchikov
Serial No.:	09/213,834
Attorney Docket No.:	11639/1
Filed:	December 17, 1998
For:	IMPROVED METHODS FOR THE INSERTION OF NUCLEIC ACIDS INTO CIRCULAR VECTORS

#17

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Moran

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 5/13/03
Signature: *Joseph A. Coppola*
Joseph A. Coppola Reg. No. 38,413

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 13, 2003 in connection with the above-identified application, please consider the following remarks. Enclosed herewith are:

- a Petition for the Extension of Time;
- a copy of the Form 1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 12, 2000; and
- a copy of the publication Upcroft P., et al. Rapid and efficient method for cloning of blunt-ended DNA fragments. Gene. 1987;51(1):69-75, listed on the Form 1449 described above.

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the current Examiner for the telephone interview on April 28, 2003 in which the Examiner explained that she would make her own examination of the claims with respect to the prior art and would not necessarily agree with the previous Examiner's examination.

The Applicant would like to express his view that the Examiner's proposed approach is inappropriate. First, it is inconsistent with the statement in M.P.E.P. §707.07(g) that "Piecemeal examination should be avoided as much as possible."